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(54) **REMOTE COMMUNICATION DEVICES,
RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION
DEVICES, WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
SYSTEMS, WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
METHODS, RADIO FREQUENCY
IDENTIFICATION DEVICE
COMMUNICATION METHODS, AND
METHODS OF FORMING A REMOTE
COMMUNICATION DEVICE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/791,187, filed on
Mar. 1, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,710,273, which is a
continuation of application No. 09/389,534, filed on
Sep. 2, 1999, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **340/572.7; 340/10.1; 343/793**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **340/572.7**
See application file for complete search history.

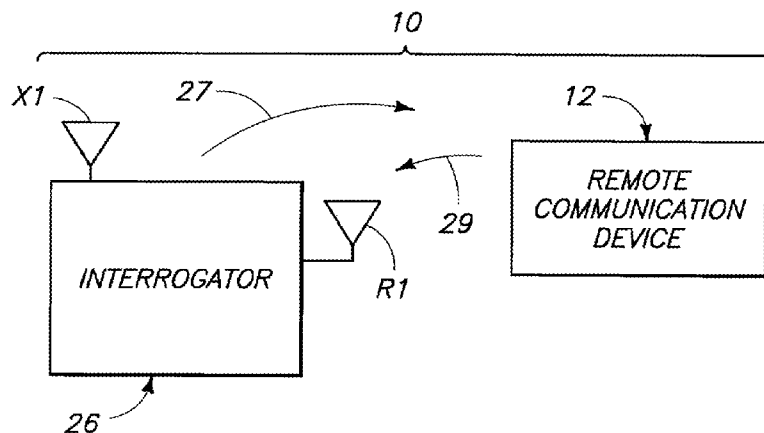
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Remote communication devices, radio frequency identifica-
tion devices, wireless communication systems, wireless com-
munication methods, radio frequency identification device
communication methods, and methods of forming a remote
intelligent communication device are provided. According to
one aspect, a remote intelligent communication device
includes communication circuitry configured to at least one
of receive communication signals and generate communica-
tion signals; and an antenna coupled with the communication
circuitry and substantially tuned to a plurality of frequencies,
the antenna being configured to communicate wireless sig-
nals corresponding to the communication signals including at
least one of receiving wireless signals and outputting wireless
signals. Another aspect includes a wireless communication
method including providing a remote intelligent communica-
tion device having an antenna substantially tuned to a plural-
ity of frequencies; and communicating wireless signals using
the antenna including at least one of receiving wireless sig-
nals at one of the frequencies and outputting wireless signals
at one of the frequencies.

27 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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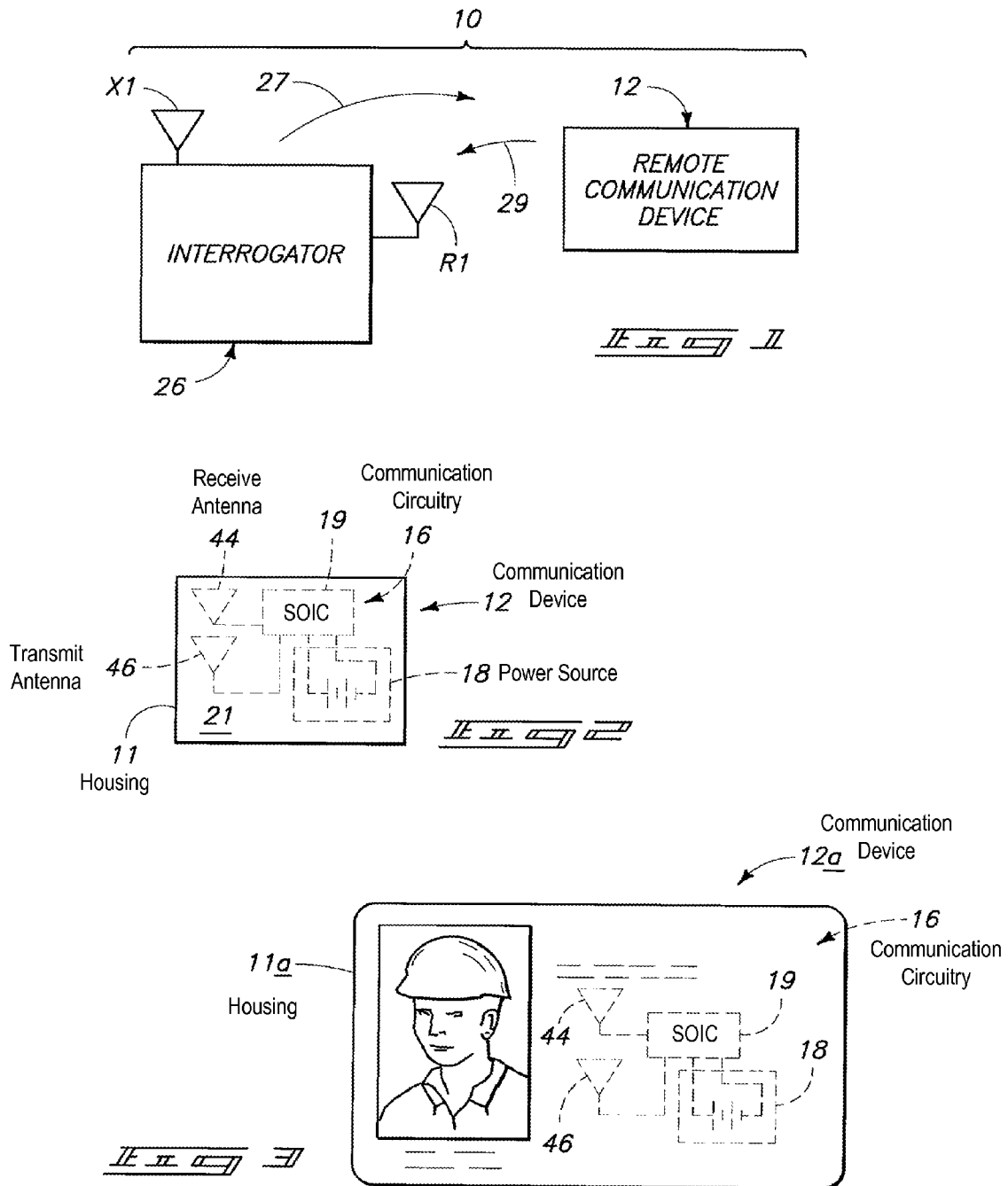
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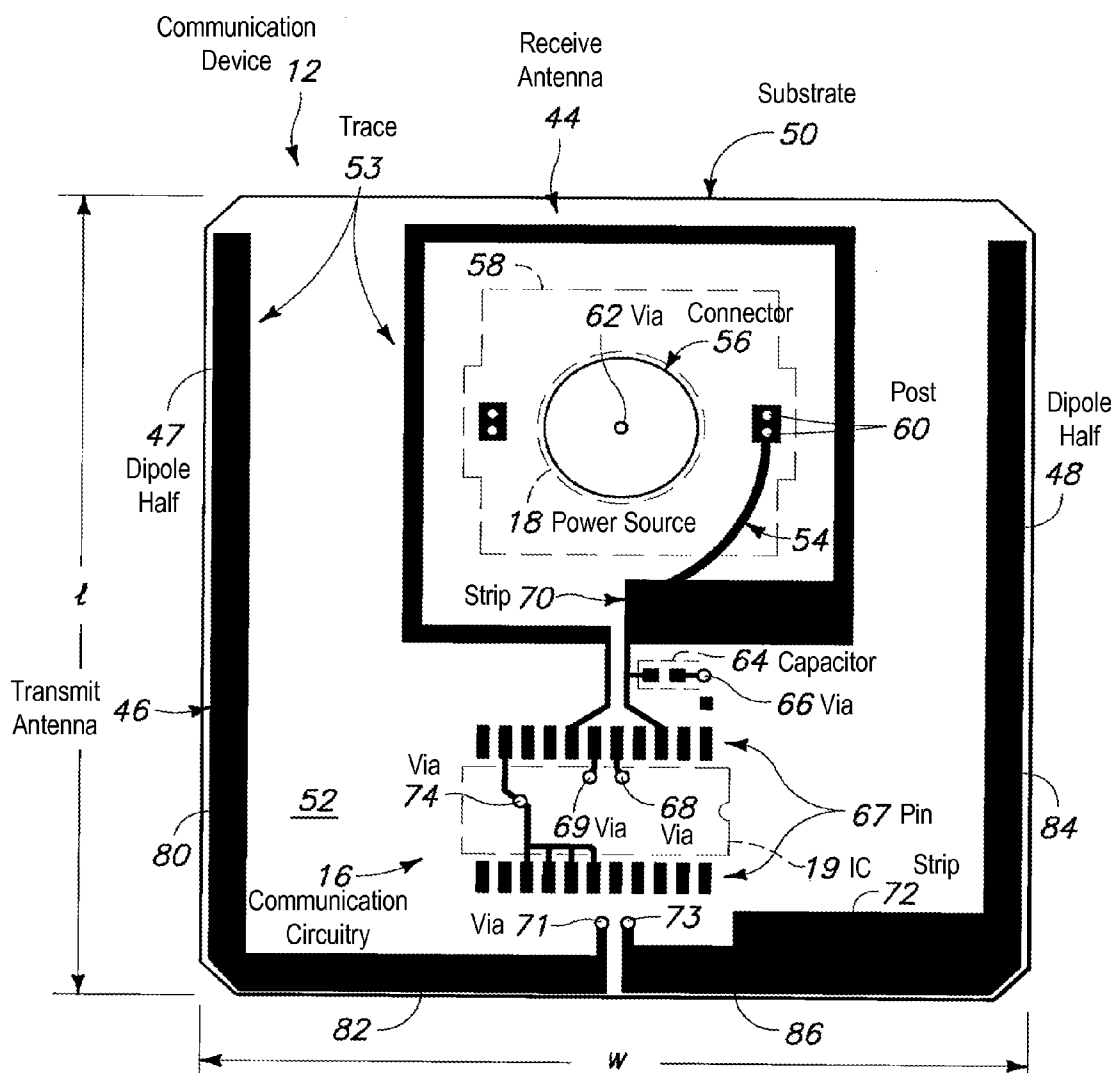
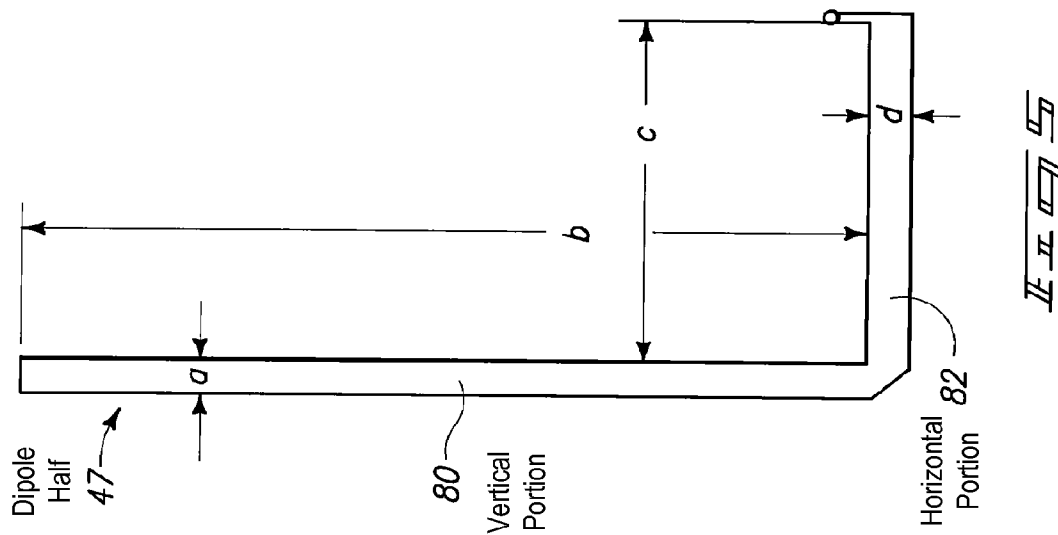
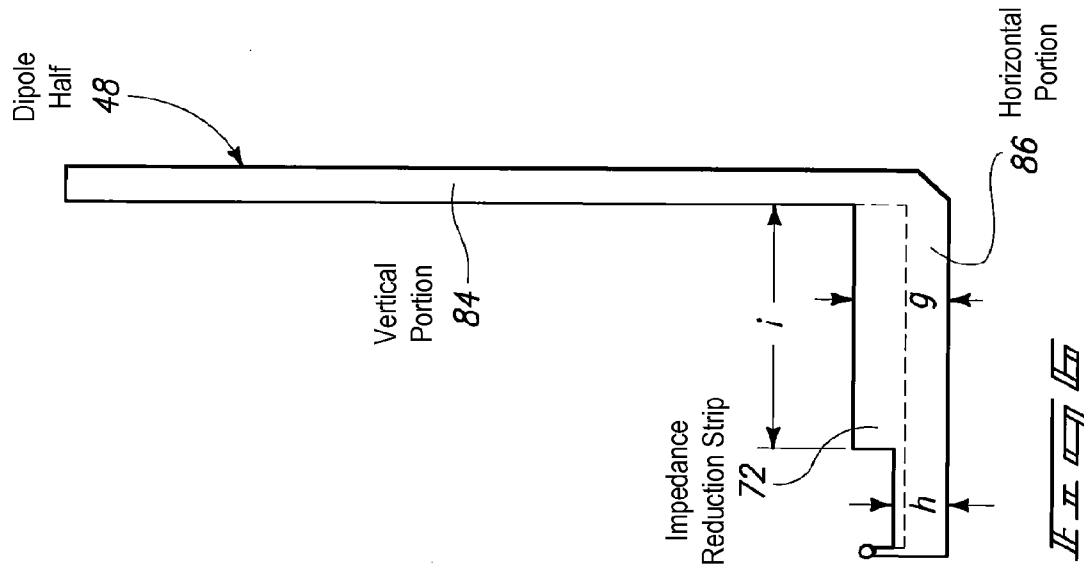
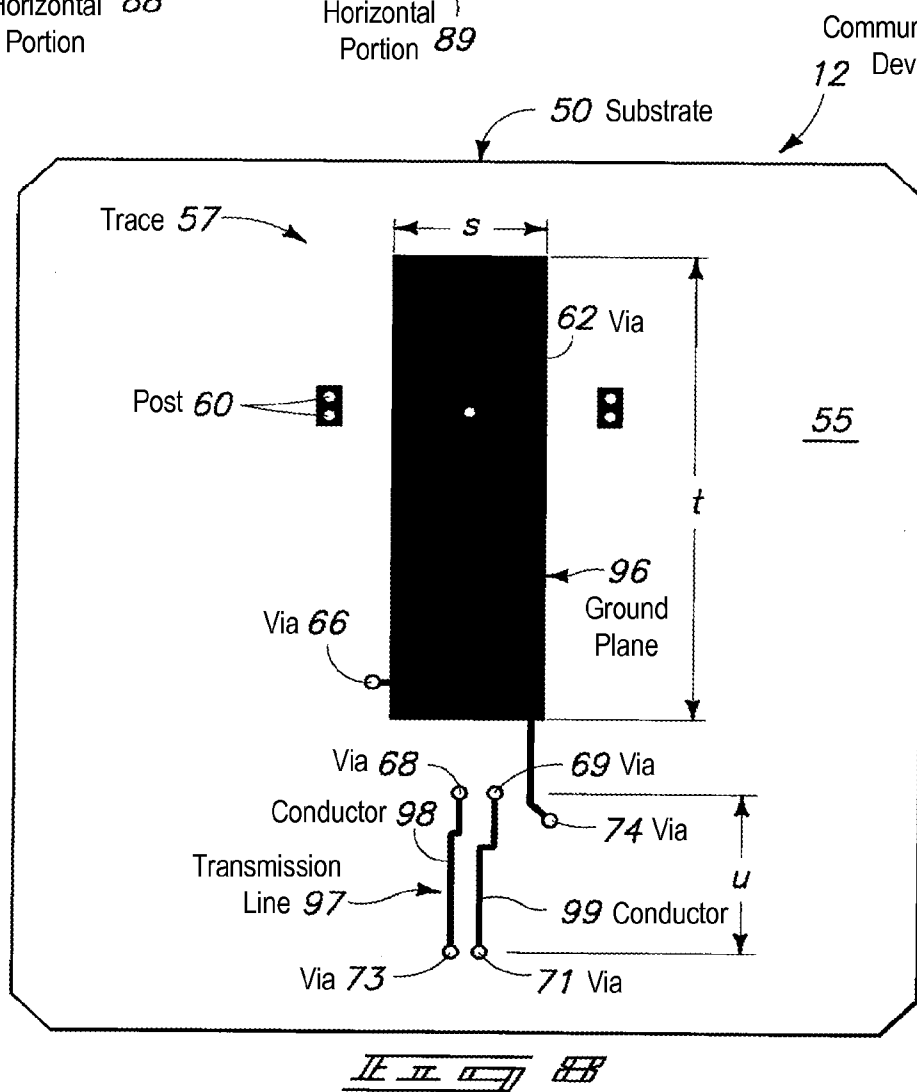
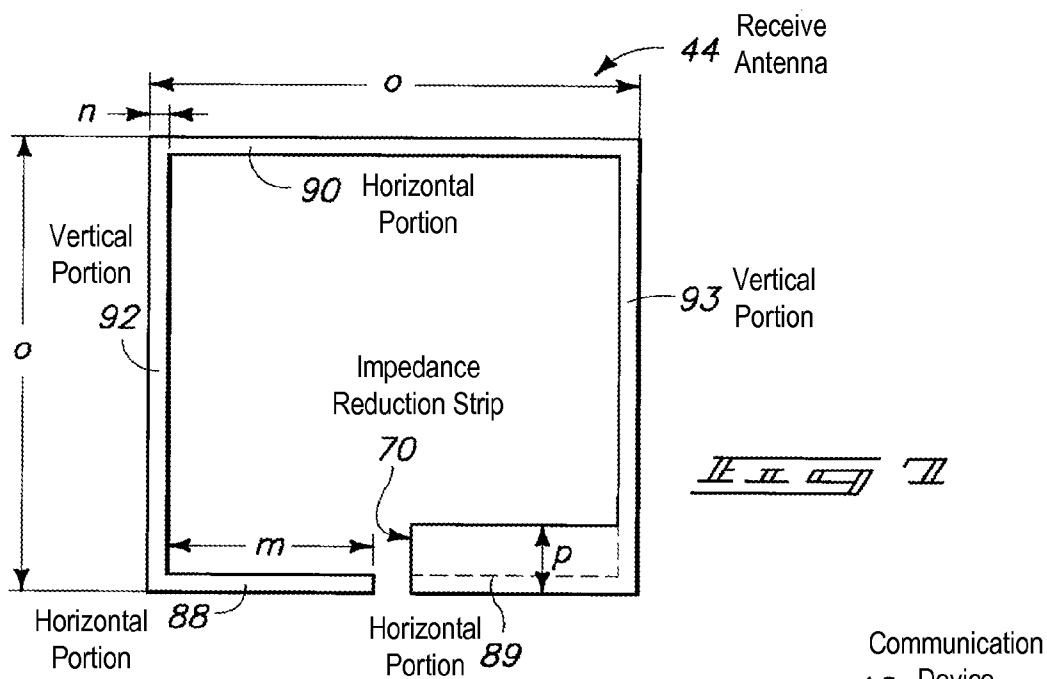


FIG. 2





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**REMOTE COMMUNICATION DEVICES,
RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION
DEVICES, WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
SYSTEMS, WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
METHODS, RADIO FREQUENCY
IDENTIFICATION DEVICE
COMMUNICATION METHODS, AND
METHODS OF FORMING A REMOTE
COMMUNICATION DEVICE**

RELATED PATENT DATA

This patent resulted from a continuation application of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/791, 187, filed Mar. 1, 2004, entitled "Remote Communication Devices, Radio Frequency Identification Devices, Wireless Communication Systems, Wireless Communication Methods, Radio Frequency Identification Device Communication Methods, and Methods of Forming a Remote Communication Device", naming Freddie W. Smith and Dirgha Khatri as inventors, which resulted from a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/389,534, filed Sep. 2, 1999, now abandoned entitled "Remote Communication Devices, Radio Frequency Identification Devices, Wireless Communication Systems, Wireless Communication Methods, Radio Frequency Identification Device Communication Methods, and Methods of Forming a Remote Communication Device", naming Freddie W. Smith and Dirgha Khatri as inventors, the disclosures of which is incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to remote communication devices, radio frequency identification devices, wireless communication systems, wireless communication methods, radio frequency identification device communication methods, and methods of forming a remote communication device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Electronic identification systems typically comprise two devices which are configured to communicate with one another. Preferred configurations of the electronic identification systems are operable to provide such communications via a wireless medium.

One such configuration is described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/705,043, filed Aug. 29, 1996, assigned to the assignee of the present application, and incorporated herein by reference. This application discloses the use of a radio frequency (RF) communication system including communication devices. The disclosed communication devices include an interrogator and a remote transponder, such as a tag or card.

Such communication systems can be used in various applications such as identification applications. The interrogator is configured to output a polling or interrogation signal which may comprise a radio frequency signal including a predefined code. The remote transponders of such a communication system are operable to transmit an identification signal responsive to receiving an appropriate polling or interrogation signal.

More specifically, the appropriate transponders are configured to recognize the predefined code. The transponders receiving the code can subsequently output a particular identification signal which is associated with the transmitting transponder. Following transmission of the polling signal, the

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interrogator is configured to receive the identification signals enabling detection of the presence of corresponding transponders.

Such communication systems are useable in identification applications such as inventory or other object monitoring. For example, a remote identification device is initially attached to an object of interest. Responsive to receiving the appropriate polling signal, the identification device is equipped to output an identification signal. Generating the identification signal identifies the presence or location of the identification device and the article or object attached thereto.

Some conventional electronic identification systems utilize backscatter communication techniques. More specifically, the interrogator outputs a polling signal followed by a continuous wave (CW) signal. The remote communication devices are configured to modulate the continuous wave signal in backscatter communication configurations. This modulation typically includes selective reflection of the continuous wave signal. The reflected continuous wave signal includes the reply message from the remote devices which is demodulated by the interrogator.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to remote communication devices, radio frequency identification devices, wireless communication systems, wireless communication methods, radio frequency identification device communication methods, and methods of forming a remote communication device.

According to one aspect of the invention, a wireless communication system is provided. The wireless communication system comprises an interrogator and one or more remote communication devices individually configured to communicate with the interrogator in at least one embodiment. Exemplary remote communication devices include remote intelligent communication devices or radio frequency identification devices (RFID).

One configuration of the remote communication device includes communication circuitry and at least one antenna configured to communicate at a plurality of frequencies. The antenna is substantially tuned to plural frequencies to implement communications. The remote communication device includes a transmit antenna and receive antenna in one embodiment. An exemplary transmit antenna comprises a dipole antenna and an exemplary receive antenna comprises a loop antenna. The remote communication device is configured for backscatter communications in at least one arrangement.

The invention additionally provides methods and additional structural aspects as described below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described below with reference to the following accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of an exemplary communication system.

FIG. 2 is a front view of a wireless remote communication device according to one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a front view of an employee badge according to another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is an illustrative representation of one substrate surface of a remote communication device.

FIG. 5 is an illustrative representation of exemplary dimensions of a transmit antenna of the remote communication device.

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FIG. 6 is an illustrative representation of additional exemplary dimensions of the transmit antenna.

FIG. 7 is an illustrative representation of exemplary dimensions of a receive antenna of the remote communication device.

FIG. 8 is an illustrative representation of an exemplary conductive trace formed upon another substrate surface of the remote communication device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This disclosure of the invention is submitted in furtherance of the constitutional purposes of the U.S. Patent Laws "to promote the progress of science and useful arts" (Article 1, Section 8).

FIG. 1 illustrates a wireless communication system 10 embodying the invention. Communication system 10 is configured as an electronic identification system in the embodiment described herein. Other applications of communication system 10 are possible. Further, the described communication system 10 is configured for backscatter communications as described further below. Other communication protocols are utilized in other embodiments.

The depicted communication system 10 includes at least one electronic wireless remote communication device 12 and an interrogator 26. Radio frequency communications can occur intermediate remote communication device 12 and interrogator 26 for use in identification systems and product monitoring systems as exemplary applications.

Devices 12 include radio frequency identification devices (RFID) or remote intelligent communication (RIC) devices in the exemplary embodiments described herein. Remote intelligent communication devices can perform functions in addition to identification functions. Exemplary devices 12 are disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/705,043, filed Aug. 29, 1996. Plural wireless remote communication devices 12 typically communicate with interrogator 26 although only one such device 12 is illustrated in FIG. 1. Such a remote communication device 12 can be referred to as a tag or card as illustrated and described below.

Although multiple remote communication devices 12 can be employed in communication system 10, there is typically no communication between multiple devices 12. Instead, the multiple communication devices 12 communicate with interrogator 26. Multiple communication devices 12 can be used in the same field of interrogator 26 (i.e., within the communications range of interrogator 26). Similarly, multiple interrogators 26 can be in proximity to one or more of remote communication devices 12.

The above described system 10 is advantageous over prior art devices that utilize magnetic field effect systems because, with system 10, a greater range can be achieved, and more information can be communicated (instead of just identification information). As a result, such a system 10 can be used, for example, to monitor large warehouse inventories having many unique products needing individual discrimination to determine the presence of particular items within a large lot of tagged products.

Remote communication device 12 is configured to interface with interrogator 26 using a wireless medium in one embodiment. More specifically, communications intermediate communication device 12 and interrogator 26 occur via an electromagnetic link, such as an RF link (e.g., at microwave frequencies) in the described embodiment. Interrogator 26 is configured to output forward link wireless communications 27. Further, interrogator 26 is operable to receive reply or

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return link wireless communications 29 from remote communication devices 12 responsive to the outputting of forward link communication 27.

In accordance with the above, forward link communications 27 and return link communications 29 individually comprise wireless signals, such as radio frequency signals, in the described embodiment. Other forms of electromagnetic communication, such as infrared, etc., are possible.

Interrogator unit 26 includes a plurality of antennas X1, R1, as well as transmitting and receiving circuitry, similar to that implemented in devices 12. Antenna X1 comprises a transmit antenna and antenna R1 comprises a receive antenna individually connected to interrogator 26.

In operation, interrogator 26 transmits the interrogation command or forward link communication signal 27 via antenna X1. Communication device 12 is operable to receive the incoming forward link signal. Upon receiving signal 27, communication device 12 is operable to respond by communicating the responsive reply or return link communication signal 29.

In one embodiment, responsive signal 29 is encoded with information that uniquely identifies, or labels the particular device 12 that is transmitting, so as to identify any object, animal, automobile, person, etc., with which remote communication device 12 is associated.

More specifically, remote communication device 12 is configured to output an identification signal within reply link communication 29 responsive to receiving forward link wireless communication 27. Interrogator 26 is configured to receive and recognize the identification signal within the return or reply link communication 29. The identification signal can be utilized to identify the particular transmitting communication device 12.

Referring to FIG. 2, one embodiment of remote communication device 12 is illustrated. The depicted remote communication device 12 includes communication circuitry 16 having a receiver and a transmitter. Communication circuitry 16 may be implemented as transponder circuitry in one configuration. Exemplary communication circuitry 16 includes a small outline integrated circuit (SOIC) 19 available as radio frequency identification device (RFID) circuitry from Micron Communications Inc., 3176 South Denver Way, Boise, Id. 83705 under the trademark MicroStamp™ Engine and having designations MSEM256X10SG, MT59RC256R1FG-5.

Communication circuitry 16 is configured to receive and process communication signals. Exemplary processing includes analyzing the received communication signal for identification information and processing commands within the communication signal. More or less processing can be performed by communication circuitry 16. Thereafter, communication circuitry 16 selectively generates communication signals for communication to interrogator 26. Remote communication device 12 further includes a power source 18 connected to communication circuitry 16 to supply operational power to communication circuitry 16 including integrated circuit 19.

Power source 18 is a thin film battery in the illustrated embodiment, however, in alternative embodiments, other forms of power sources can be employed. If the power source 18 is a battery, the battery can take any suitable form. Preferably, the battery type will be selected depending on weight, size, and life requirements for a particular application. In one embodiment, battery 18 is a thin profile button-type cell forming a small, thin energy cell more commonly utilized in watches and small electronic devices requiring a thin profile. A conventional button-type cell has a pair of electrodes, an anode formed by one face and a cathode formed by an oppo-

site face. In an alternative embodiment, the battery comprises a series connected pair of button type cells.

Communication device **12** further includes at least one antenna connected to communication circuitry **16** and configured for at least one of wireless transmission and reception. In the illustrated embodiment, communication device **12** includes at least one receive antenna **44** connected to communication circuitry **16** for radio frequency reception by communication circuitry **16**, and at least one transmit antenna **46** connected to communication circuitry **16** for radio frequency transmission by communication circuitry **16**.

Receive antenna **44** is configured to receive forward wireless signals **27** and apply communication signals corresponding to the received wireless signals to communication circuitry **16**. Transmit antenna **46** is configured to receive generated communication signals from communication circuitry **16** and output remote wireless signals **29** corresponding to the generated communication signals. The described antennas are implemented as printed microstrip antennas in one configuration. Further, receive antenna **44** comprises a loop antenna and the transmit antenna **46** comprises a dipole antenna in the described configuration. Transmit antenna **46** has plural dipole halves **47**, **48** in the configuration illustrated in FIG. 4.

Communication device **12** can be included in any appropriate housing or packaging. FIG. 2 shows but one example of a housing in the form of a miniature housing **11** encasing device **12** to define a tag which can be supported by an object (e.g., hung from an object, affixed to an object, etc.).

Referring to FIG. 3, an alternative configuration of remote communication device **12a** is illustrated. FIG. 3 shows remote communication device **12a** having a housing **11a** in the form of a card. Card housing **11a** preferably comprises plastic or other suitable material. Remote communication device **12a** may be utilized as an employee identification badge including the communication circuitry **16**. In one embodiment, the front face of housing **11a** has visual identification features such as an employee photograph or a fingerprint in addition to identifying text.

Although two particular types of housings have been disclosed, the communication device **12** can be included in any appropriate housing. Communication device **12** is preferably of a small size that lends itself to applications employing small housings, such as cards, miniature tags, etc. Larger housings can also be employed. The communication device **12**, provided in any appropriate housing, can be supported from or attached to an object in any desired manner.

Referring to FIG. 4, further details of one configuration of remote communication device **12** are shown. The illustrated remote communication device **12** includes a substrate **50** having plural surfaces (surface **52** is shown in FIG. 4). The illustrated substrate **50** has exemplary dimensions including a length *l* of 60 mm and a width *w* of 53 mm.

In the described configuration of remote communication device **12**, substrate **50** comprises FR4 board. Conductive traces **53** are provided upon surface **52** of substrate **50** to form desired circuitry including interconnections, antennas, etc. Such traces **53** can be formed by etching copper cladding provided upon surface **52**.

As shown, conductive traces **53** include receive antenna **44** and transmit antenna **46** individually formed upon surface **52**. In addition, traces **53** include power source connections for coupling with power source **18** (shown in phantom in FIG. 3). More specifically, power source connections include a positive voltage connection **54** and a negative voltage connection **56** as shown.

A negative terminal of power source **18** may be electrically coupled directly with negative connection **56**. In the described configuration, power source **18** is seated upon and coupled directly above negative connection **56**.

An elevated support connection **58** is formed elevationally above power source **18** and substrate surface **52**. Elevated support connection **58** is coupled with a positive terminal of power source **18**. The positive terminal can be opposite the negative terminal of power source **18** which is coupled with negative connector **56**. Plural conductive posts **60** are provided to couple elevated support connection **58** with positive connection **54**.

A via connection **62** is shown formed through substrate **50**. Via connection **62** provides coupling of negative connection **56** formed upon surface **52** to an opposing surface of substrate **50** shown in FIG. 8. Via connection **62** can provide coupling to a ground plane formed upon the opposing surface as described below in further detail. Positive connection **54** couples conductive posts **60** with receive antenna **44** and a pin **3** (positive voltage input) of integrated circuit **19**. Antenna **44** is additionally coupled with a pin **7** (RX input) of integrated circuit **19** as shown.

Conductive traces **53** formed upon surface **52** also couple communication circuitry **16** and a capacitor **64** with other circuitry as illustrated. Capacitor **64** is coupled with one lead of receive antenna **44** and a via connection **66**. Via connection **66** provides electrical coupling of capacitor **64** with a ground connection upon the opposing surface of substrate **50**. Accordingly, capacitor **64** operates to provide coupling of positive connection **54** with the ground reference voltage of power source **18**. Capacitor **64** is a 0.1 microfarad capacitor in the described embodiment sufficient to provide static discharge protection.

The formed conductive traces **53** also operate to couple the lead of receive antenna **44** with pin **7** of integrated circuit **19**. Pins **5**, **6** of integrated circuit **19** are coupled with respective via connections **68**, **69**. Via connections **68**, **69** provide electrical connection through substrate **50** to a transmission line described with reference to FIG. 8. Via connections **71**, **73** are coupled with opposite ends of the transmission line and dipole halves **47**, **48** of transmit antenna **46**. Integrated circuit **19** is electrically coupled with a plurality of pin connections **67** of conductive traces **53**. Plural pins **9**, **13-16** of integrated circuit **19** are coupled with a via connection **74** which is coupled through the ground plane to the negative terminal of power source **18**.

In the illustrated configuration including power source **18** within receive antenna **44**, receive antenna **44** is tuned to a first frequency (approximately 915 MHz in the described embodiment). Power source **18** provides capacitive loading which assists with tuning of antenna **44** to the desired frequency.

Receive antenna **44** further includes an impedance reduction strip **70** provided in a substantially rectangular configuration in the depicted embodiment. Other configurations of impedance reduction strip **70** are possible. Impedance reduction strip **70** comprises a conductor which operates to effectively lower the impedance of receive antenna **44** and provide enhanced operation of antenna **44** at another higher frequency (e.g., 2.45 GHz) without excessive degradation of communication at the first frequency (e.g., 915 MHz).

Thus, with impedance reduction strip **70**, receive antenna **44** is substantially tuned to a plurality of independent frequency bands individually having a bandwidth of approximately twenty percent of the highest center frequency (e.g., ± 200 MHz for 2.45 GHz). Receive antenna **44** is tuned to plural exclusive non-overlapping frequency bands in the

described arrangement. Receive antenna **44** is configured to communicate wireless signals at a plurality of substantially resonant frequencies. More specifically, the illustrated configuration of receive antenna **44** can electromagnetically communicate with a return loss of less than or equal to approximately -9 dB at the plural frequencies.

The illustrated configuration of transmit antenna **46** includes plural vertical portions and horizontal portions. More specifically, dipole half **47** includes a vertical portion **80** and a horizontal portion **82**. Dipole half **48** includes a vertical portion **84** and a horizontal portion **86**.

Additionally, transmit antenna **46** includes an impedance reduction strip **72** formed in one exemplary configuration as illustrated in FIG. 4. Impedance reduction strip **72** is a conductor formed adjacent one of the leads of transmit antenna **46**. Impedance reduction strip **72** operates to reduce the impedance of dipole half **48** of transmit antenna **46** in the depicted configuration. Other arrangements for impedance reduction strip **72** are possible.

The illustrated transmit antenna **46** is configured to communicate wireless signals at a plurality of substantially resonant frequencies. Transmit antenna **46** is substantially tuned to a plurality of independent frequency bands individually having a bandwidth of approximately twenty percent of the highest center frequency. Transmit antenna **46** is tuned to plural exclusive non-overlapping frequency bands in the described arrangement.

For example, the depicted transmit antenna **46** is substantially tuned to 915 MHz and 2.45 GHz. Horizontal portions **82**, **86** of transmit antenna **46** are tuned to substantially communicate at a first frequency (e.g., 2.45 GHz communications). Vertical portions **80**, **84** of transmit antenna **46** in combination with horizontal portions **82**, **86** are tuned to provide communications at a second frequency (e.g., 915 MHz) with horizontal portions **82**, **86**. Transmit antenna **46** is configured to electromagnetically communicate with a return loss of less than or equal to approximately -9 dB at the plurality of frequencies. Provision of impedance reduction strip **72** operates to improve tuning of transmit antenna **46** to the plural independent frequency bands.

Interrogator **26** (shown in FIG. 1) is configured to communicate at one or more of a plurality of frequencies. The frequency of communication intermediate interrogator **26** and remote communication device **12** is generally controlled by interrogator **26**. For example, in some applications, a 915 MHz frequency may be desirable for longer range communications while in other applications a 2.45 GHz frequency may provide advantageous benefits (e.g., severe interference may be experienced in another one of the frequency bands). Interrogator **26** outputs forward signals **27** at the desired frequency or frequencies.

Thereafter, interrogator **26** outputs a continuous wave signal at one or more of the frequencies. Remote communication device **12** selectively modulates a received continuous wave signal during backscatter communications. Accordingly, the modulated backscatter return signal is provided at the original frequency of the continuous wave signal outputted by interrogator **26**. Thus, in the described embodiment, the frequency of communication of remote communication device **12** is determined responsive to a frequency of communication of interrogator **26**. Other communication methods may be utilized.

Referring to FIGS. 5-7, exemplary dimensions of receive antenna **44** and transmit antenna **46** formed upon surface **52** are illustrated. Referring specifically to FIG. 5, dipole half **47** of transmit antenna **46** is shown. Vertical portion **80** of dipole half **47** has a thickness **a** of 2.3 mm. Vertical portion **80**

additionally includes a length **b** of 55 mm. Horizontal portion **82** has a length **c** of 22.3 mm. Horizontal portion **82** additionally includes a width **d** of 3 mm.

Referring to FIG. 6, details of dipole half **48** are shown. Dipole half **48** includes a vertical portion **84** and a horizontal portion **86** adjacent impedance reduction strip **72**. Vertical portion **84** has an equivalent width and length to that of vertical portion **80** of antenna half **47**. Further, horizontal portion **86** has a length equivalent to that of horizontal portion **82** of antenna half **47**. A dimension **g** including the width of horizontal portion **86** and the width of impedance reduction strip **72** is 7.73 mm. Another dimension **h** including a reduced width of impedance reduction strip **72** and horizontal portion **86** is 5 mm. Further, a dimension **i** corresponding to one length of impedance reduction strip **72** is 17 mm. The depicted dimensions correspond to one configuration of transmit antenna **46** of remote communication device **12**. Other configurations are possible.

Referring to FIG. 7, exemplary dimensions of receive antenna **44** are shown. Receive antenna **44** includes horizontal portions **88-90**. In addition, receive antenna **44** includes vertical portions **92**, **93**. Horizontal portions **88**, **89** individually have a length corresponding to a dimension **m** of 14.7 mm. Individual antenna portions **88-90**, **92**, **93** individually have a width corresponding to dimension **n** of 1.35 mm. Vertical portions **92**, **93** individually have a length **o** having a dimension of 33.8 mm. Horizontal portion **90** also has a length of dimension **o** of 33.8 mm. Impedance reduction strip **70** and horizontal portion **89** have a combined width **p** of 5.73 mm.

Referring to FIG. 8, a surface **55** of substrate **50** opposite surface **52** described above is shown. Surface **55** of substrate **50** includes conductive traces **57** formed as shown in the described embodiment. Conductive traces **57** can comprise etched copper cladding in an FR4 board configuration.

The depicted conductive trace **57** includes a ground plane **96** and a transmission line **97** comprising plural conductors **98**, **99**. Ground plane **96** is coupled with negative connection **56** using via connection **62**. Further, ground plane **96** is also coupled with via connections **66**, **74**.

Transmission line **97** comprises a quarter-wavelength transmission line in the described embodiment. Transmission line **97** operates to couple backscatter pins **5**, **6** of integrated circuit **19** shown in FIG. 4 with respective dipole halves **48**, **47** of transmit antenna **46**. Transmission line **97** operates to provide an inverting function in accordance with the described embodiment. For example, if integrated circuit **19** short circuits pins coupled with via connections **68**, **69**, an open circuit is seen at via connections **71**, **73** coupled with antenna halves **47**, **48**. Conversely, if an open circuit is provided intermediate via connections **68**, **69**, a short circuit is seen at via connections **71**, **73** for 2.45 GHz communications.

Various dimensions of conductive trace **57** are provided below in accordance with an exemplary configuration. Other configurations are possible. In the described embodiment, ground plane **96** includes a width of dimension **s** of 8.44 mm. Further, ground plane **96** has a length **t** of 34 mm. Conductors **98**, **99** individually have a length corresponding to dimension **u** of 10.5 mm. Further, individual conductors **98**, **99** have a width of 1 mm.

Provision of a remote communication device **12** as described herein provides improved communications at plural independent frequency bands. For example, such a remote communication device **12** has been observed to have a forward range of approximately 170 feet and a return range of approximately 300 feet at 915 MHz. Further, the remote

communication device has been observed to have a forward range of 28 feet and a return range of 90 feet at 2.45 GHz.

In compliance with the statute, the invention has been described in language more or less specific as to structural and methodical features. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the specific features shown and described, since the means herein disclosed comprise preferred forms of putting the invention into effect. The invention is, therefore, claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the proper scope of the appended claims appropriately interpreted in accordance with the doctrine of equivalents.

The invention claimed is:

1. A radio frequency identification (RFID) tag comprising: a substrate having a dipole antenna formed thereon, the dipole antenna having a first half and a second half, the first half further having a first short section and a first long section, and the second half having a second short section and a second long section; wherein the first short section and the second short section are configured to operate at a first frequency; and wherein the first long section and the second long section, in cooperation with the first short section and the second short section, are configured to operate at a second frequency.
2. The RFID tag of claim 1, further comprising: communication circuitry coupled to the dipole antenna by a quarter-wavelength transmission line.
3. The RFID tag of claim 2, wherein the quarter-wavelength is determined by the first frequency.
4. The RFID tag of claim 1, wherein the first frequency is higher than the second frequency.
5. The RFID tag of claim 1, wherein the first and second short sections are laid out on the same first edge of the substrate, the first long section is laid out on a second edge of the substrate, and the second long section is laid out on a third edge of the substrate.
6. The RFID tag of claim 1, further comprising: an impedance reduction strip adjacent to the first short section.
7. The RFID tag of claim 1, wherein the second frequency provides longer range communications between the RFID tag and an interrogator.
8. The RFID tag of claim 1, further comprising: a receive antenna formed on the substrate.
9. The RFID tag of claim 8, wherein the receive antenna is a loop antenna.
10. A method of manufacturing a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag comprising: forming a first half of a dipole antenna, the first half having a first short section and a first long section, the first short section formed along a first edge of a substrate and the first long section formed along a second edge of the substrate; and forming a second half of a dipole antenna, the second half having a second short section and a second long section, the second short section formed along the first edge of the substrate and the second long section formed along a third edge of the substrate.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the second edge is opposite the third edge on the substrate.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the second edge and third edge are perpendicular to the first edge of the substrate.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the first half and the second half are etched copper cladding on the substrate.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising: forming an impedance reduction strip adjacent to the first half.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the first and second short sections are tuned to communicate at a first frequency, and wherein the first and second long sections in combination with the first and second short sections are tuned to communicate a second frequency.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the first frequency is higher than the second frequency.

17. The method of claim 10, further comprising: forming a receive antenna on the substrate.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the receive antenna is a loop antenna.

19. The method of claim 10, further comprising: attaching communication circuitry to the substrate.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising: forming a quarter-wavelength transmission line on the substrate, wherein the quarter-wavelength transmission line is used to couple the communication circuitry to the first half and the second half of the dipole antenna.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the communication circuitry is configured to selectively short or isolate the first half and the second half of the dipole antenna to provide backscatter communications.

22. A communications system comprising: an interrogator configured to provide continuous-wave signals in a plurality of frequency bands; and a remote communication device having an antenna adapted for use in both a first frequency band and a second frequency band separate from the first frequency band, wherein the remote communication device provides reply signals to the interrogator at a continuous-wave frequency selected by the interrogator.

23. The communications system of claim 22, wherein the interrogator selects the continuous wave frequency based upon a desired communication range.

24. The communications system of claim 22, wherein the interrogator selects the continuous wave frequency to avoid interference.

25. The communications system of claim 24, wherein the interrogator selects the continuous wave frequency based upon a desired communication range.

26. The communications system of claim 22, wherein the remote communications device generates the reply signals by selectively shorting and opening a connection between a first half and a second half of the dipole antenna.

27. The communications system of claim 22, wherein the remote communication device further comprises: an impedance reduction element formed adjacent to the dipole antenna.

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